

State Commission

As the Rhode Island State Commission, Serve Rhode Island manages nine AmeriCorps State programs. Programs focus on early childhood education, school engagement and academic improvement, out-of-school STEM programming, college access, employment, and veterans' services. Last year, 184 AmeriCorps members served more than 9,000 students, provided health education to more than 2,500 mothers and young families, and served more than 2,000 veterans and family members. As the volunteer center for the state, Serve Rhode Island spearheads the SAFE-D program (Snow Assistance for the Elderly and Disabled). Last winter, 234 volunteers completed 714 snow shoveling assignments to ensure the safety of Rhode Island's low-income elderly and disabled individuals. AmeriCorps members were a key piece of the volunteer effort by shoveling snow and answering resident's phone calls.

AmeriCorps State

Generations of Learning is an AmeriCorps program of Connecting For Children & Families, which serves low-income students grades K-5 at Coleman Elementary in Woonsocket. Coleman Elementary is one of the state's lowest in academic achievement. Through this program, 12 AmeriCorps members provide one-on-one literacy enrichment in classrooms and summer programming to prevent summer learning loss. Of the 213 students who completed the program, 121 students improved their reading skills last year. In their fourth year of programming, Generations of Learning has become an integral part of the school community and has created demand for more service in neighboring schools.

The Education Fellowship Program at The Learning Community Charter School provides students with small group math and reading tutoring and improves school engagement for grades 6-8 through after-school STEM programming. A total of ten AmeriCorps members serve at the charter school in Central Falls, as well as a partner public school in Woonsocket, to continue their model of sharing proven best practices. Last year, 314 students participated in the AmeriCorps-led tutoring sessions and 294 of those students improved in literacy or math. Additionally, 71 of the 95 middle school students who completed the after-school programming showed improvement in academic engagement.

AmeriCorps National

City Year Providence AmeriCorps engages 50 members who serve full-time at five schools, helping more than 3,830 students at greatest risk of dropping out. AmeriCorps members serve alongside teachers, using research-based tools to improve students' attendance, behavior, and performance in math and English. The members also lead afterschool programs and school-wide initiatives to improve school culture. Thanks to the members' service, 67 percent of students who started the year with a D or F improved their grade to a C or higher by the end of the year. Additionally, 100 percent of principals and liaisons report City Year AmeriCorps members help improve their students' social-emotional learning.

AmeriCorps VISTA

The Capital Good Fund provides equitable financial services that create pathways out of poverty by providing low-income families with individualized financial coaching, personal loans, and tax information and counseling. AmeriCorps VISTA members have recruited 50 volunteers who will serve 250 hours, developed new systems and business processes, evaluated the organizational assessment tool for improvements and updates, built new data system capacity, and provided 1,045 economically disadvantaged individuals with financial services to improve their financial knowledge.

The Housing Authority of the City of Pawtucket provides safe, decent, and affordable housing and establishes programs to enhance, and empower residents. AmeriCorps members have recruited 172 volunteers who served 1004 hours, secured in-kind resources valued at \$77,249, provided services to 85 beneficiaries, provided 1,045 economically disadvantaged individuals with financial services to improve their financial knowledge, developed and implemented effective volunteer management practices at three organizations, provided support, education and or referrals to 350 individuals, and provided increased food security to 150 individuals.

AmeriCorps NCCC

Two FEMA Corps teams served with the American Red Cross (ARC) and FEMA with the Pillowcase Project and Masters of Disaster presentation. These projects teach students how to prepare for emergencies, enhance coping skills, and practice what they have learned to share knowledge with family and friends. Participants receive a pillowcase at the end of the presentation that serves as a place for kids to store emergency preparedness items. If an emergency were to occur, the child could easily grab the pillowcase and take it with them to safety. AmeriCorps NCCC members interacted with more than 2,000 students at schools throughout Rhode Island. The teams also helped organize and take inventory of the American Red Cross's storage units and trailers. Upon one of the team's arrivals, there was a major fire in Warwick. FEMA Corps members were able to assist with individual and family case files to respond more effectively. Another team went door-to-door to designated residences and conducted a survey on behalf of Westerly to determine whether the town would receive back-up generators to power sewer pumps in the event of an emergency.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

According to the Rhode Island Department of Education, 40 percent of East Bay third-graders attending low-performing schools are not proficient in math and 30 percent are not proficient in reading. Thirty-nine Foster Grandparent volunteers serving through the East Bay Community Action Program provided tutoring and mentoring to 628 students, and 85 percent improved their academic skills. According to RI Kids Count, one in three East Bay children live in low-income families and 44 percent of these children live in single-parent households. Research by The Annie E. Casey Foundation states that the gap begins at birth for children born low-income due to differences in children's resources and opportunities for physical, linguistic, cognitive, social, emotional, and behavioral development. Head Start seeks to narrow the gap between disadvantaged children and more privileged children. Through the East Bay Community Action Program, 7 Foster Grandparent volunteers serve 92 children at 6 Head Start stations.

Senior Corps RSVP

Federal Hill House – (Capital Region RSVP) is currently providing Matter of Balance training to RSVP volunteers who will become Master Trainers. They have reached out to local senior centers, nonprofits, high-rise buildings and other places to recruit volunteers. The RSVP volunteers teach classes approximately 15 clients per class. A Matter of Balance includes eight two-hour sessions for a small group led by a trained facilitator. Although this is a new initiative, the goal is to have 192 participants benefit from this training.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

The Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs serves as the statewide Senior Companion Program. There are currently 83 Senior Companion volunteers who serve throughout the state. These volunteers serve a total of 493 mental health, independent living, and adult day care clients to allow these clients to stay in their own homes, saving the state expenses from providing nursing home care. Training is provided to the Senior Companions on how to best serve their clients with mental health. In addition, 30 clients are receiving respite care from the Senior Companions. This provides a relief outlet for the client caregivers which can help reduce stress and provide better health for the caregiver. Senior Companions are also trained in emergency preparedness, which they pass to their clients.

Social Innovation Fund

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF) transforms lives by using evidence to find what works and make it work for more people. The SIF Classic and SIF Pay for Success programs harness the expertise of grant-making intermediaries to identify, evaluate and expand effective nonprofits serving low-income communities across America. The Local Initiatives Support Corporation SIF programs throughout the state have placed 145 people in jobs and increased the net worth of 202 individuals. The Social Innovation Fund is investing in expanding the impact of three nonprofits in Rhode Island.